dressing materials and the First Aid Boxes are available with the Guards of all the trains. In addition Augmented First Aid Boxes with wider range of medicines, disposable medical material, etc. have been provided with the Train Superintendents / Pantry Car Managers of Rajdhani / Shatabdi Express Trains and on nominated long distance Mail / Express trains. Services of doctors travelling as passengers are also utilized to attend to passengers who are in need of urgent medical assistance. The front line staff *viz.* Train Superintendents, Train-Conductors, Travelling Ticket Examiners, etc. are also trained in rendering first aid. Trains can also make unscheduled halts, if necessary, at the stations en-route in extreme emergencies. The Station Masters have details of doctors, clinics & hospitals, both Government and Private, in the vicinity of the station, so that their services could also be requisitioned, in emergencies. In addition, a database has also been developed regarding availability of the non-railway medical facilities along railway tracks and at stations en-route, for providing emergency medical care to sick travelling passengers in the Trains.

Luxury rail services in Orissa and Jharkhand

2143.SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) proposes to tie up with Rail Europe to woo customers across various countries in regard to luxury rail services like Palace on Wheels available in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the details of such luxury trains being run in India; and

(d) what is the action plan of Government to run such trains in Orissa and Jharkhand to improve the economy of these backward regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Indian Railways is operating 'Palace on Wheels' and 'Heritage on Wheels' in association with Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation, 'Deccan Odyssey' in association with Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation and 'Golden Chariot' in association with Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation, respectively.

(d) The luxury tourist trains are introduced at the instance of respective State Governments/State Tourism Corporations. There is no such proposal from the State Governments of Orissa and Jharkhand.

Upgradation of RPF

2144.SHRI B. J.PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to upgrade the Railway Protection Force (RPF) in view of the increased terrorist threat to the rail network in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether RPF has been vested with powers to apprehend and detain the accused within the rail premises for interrogation before handing over to the concerned local police authorities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. RPF has been upgraded with modern security gadgets like INSAS 5.56mm rifles, AK-47, SLR 7.62mm, Carbine 9 mm, Pistol Auto 9mm, Bullet Proof Jackets and Helmets, Walkie-Talkie, Hand Held Metal Detectors, Door Frame Metal Detectors, Dog Squad etc.

On the recommendations of Norms Committee, which had been formed for fixing scales/norms for procurement of modern security related equipment, Ministry of Railways have allocated Rs. 60.76 crore for procurement of security equipment to be used by the RPF.

A Committee comprising of officers from Railways, RPF, IB, CISF, Delhi Police and NSG was constituted by the Ministry of Railways to formulate a Composite Security Plan for the Railways. The committee has submitted its report. It has been approved and the same is being implemented to strengthen security system of railways.

An Integrated Security System is being implemented over stations (including sub-urban stations) of Metro cities of Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai and other 140 vulnerable/sensitive stations of Indian Railways. This system comprises of the following broad areas:-

1. Internet protocol based CCTV System with video analytics.
2. Access control.
3. Personal and baggage screening system.
4. Explosive detection and disposal system.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. With the amendment in RPF Act. 1957 in 2003, RPF has been entrusted with the security of passengers and passengers area. Accordingly Railway Protection Force has been given powers of enquiry and prosecution for various offences under sections 179 & 180 of Railways Act 1989. Furthermore Railway Protection Force has been given powers of enquiry and prosecution of offenders, under the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1966, involved in offences relating to railway property. Offenders involved in IPC related offences within Railway premises are apprehended by RPF personnel and handed over to the Government Railway Police for further prosecution of the case, as per procedure laid down under RPF Act.

Procurement of Wagons

2145. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways is going to procure a record 20,000 wagons during 2008-09 in order to meet shortage of wagons which is a key concern of customers and especially to meet peak time demand;